

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 10380 101859Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6052
WHITE HOUSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

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STADIS//////////

EXDIS

WHITE FOR JODY POWELL

FROM AMBASSADOR TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN
SUBJECT: JACK ANDERSON COLUMN

REF: STATE 229153

1. REGARDING ANDERSON COLUMN QUOTED REFTTEL, ANDERSON
CALLED ME ON SEPTEMBER 4 AND THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE
OCCURRED:

A. ANDERSON SAID HE HAD TRIED TO REACH ME BEFORE BUT
HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN DOING SO AND WAS PLEASED TO HAVE
THIS OPPORTUNITY. HE BEGAN BY ASKING WHETHER I HAD
PRESENTED A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF VESCO WHILE IN
COSTA RICA. I REPLIED THAT A REQUEST HAD BEEN PRESENTED
BEFORE MY ARRIVAL BUT THAT I HAD NOT PRESENTED ONE
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SINCE I HAD NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM JUSTICE
TO PRESENT TO THE COSTA RICANS. I SAID I HAD, HOWEVER,
MADE KNOWN TO THE COSTA RICANS OUR INTEREST IN HAVING
VESCO RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES TO STAND TRIAL.

B. ANDERSON ASKED WHETHER ANY REQUEST HAD BEEN PRESENTED
SUBSEQUENTLY AND I SAID NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE. HE ASKED

WHY NOT. I SAID I COULD NOT SAY EXACTLY BUT I PRESUMED THAT IT MIGHT RELATE TO THE FACT THAT VESCO IS NOW OUT OF COSTA RICA AND MAY NOT EVEN BE ALLOWED TO RETURN.

C. ANDERSON SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT I HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM COSTA RICA BECAUSE OF MY STRONG STAND AGAINST VESCO. I TOLD HIM THAT I DOUBTED THAT SINCE MY TRANSFER OCCURRED NOT DURING THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION BUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS ONE. I ADDED THAT IN ANY CASE MY TRANSFER FROM COSTA RICA HAD BEEN TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS FROM WHICH IT WAS KNOWN THAT I WOULD HAVE EVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS MY VIEW THAT VESCO BE RETURNED TO THE U.S. ANDERSON THANKED ME AND THAT WAS THE END OF THE CONVERSATION.

2. WITH REGARD TO THE SPECIFIC QUOTES MADE BY ANDERSON, I DID NOT SAY AND WOULD NOT HAVE SAID THAT I HAD BEEN "PREPARING A NEW EXTRADITION REQUEST" SINCE I KNOW THAT AN EXTRADITION REQUEST CAN ONLY BE PREPARED BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

3. I DID NOT SAY AS QUOTED IN PARAGRAPH 9 THAT "JUSTICE NEVER GOT THE WHOLE THING TOGETHER". I DID SAY THAT WE (THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION) HOPED VESCO WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE U.S.

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4. REGARDING ANDERSON'S STATEMENT IN PARAGRAPH 13 ON THE TIMING OF MY RETURN, AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, I RETURNED TO WASHINGTON FROM COSTA RICA IN JANUARY NOT APRIL OF 1977 AS ANDERSON STATES. THIS MEANS THAT MY RETURN COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PART OF ANY POSSIBLE ATTEMPTED DEALINGS OR MACHINATIONS DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.

5. THE DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO SAY ON MY BEHALF, SHOULD IT WISH TO DO SO, THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FULL COOPERATION FROM ALL ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO THE VESCO CASE.

6. AT NO POINT DURING MY CONVERSATION WITH ANDERSON WAS THERE ANY INDICATION OF ANY KIND THAT OUR CONVERSATION WAS RELATED TO THE REST OF THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN HIS ARTICLE.

7. FYI. FOR WHAT IT MAY BE WORTH, DURING THE EARLY MONTHS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION THERE WAS A MR. HERRING WHO GOT IN TOUCH WITH MS. MICHELE BOVA, THEN COSTA RICAN DESK OFFICER AND NOW IN THE BUREAU OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, CONCERNING MY NOMINATION AS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ARA. MS. BOVA MIGHT BE ABLE TO
SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE CONVERSATIONS THAT OCCURRED.
TODMAN

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